

T-~~478~~ 489  
Defender House  
Trappe vicinity  
Private

Circa 1815

This recently restored frame one-and-one-half-story building was probably originally the home of an early 19th century artisan. The original interior consists of one large room on the first floor and a sleeping loft on the second story, each with a fireplace. The original flooring and staircase survive. A shed kitchen has been added at the structure's west end. Today the building houses a hand-stenciling and design business.

T-489  
Defender House  
Trappe vicinity  
Private

circa 1820-40

The Defender House, named for its association with the adjacent Defender Canning Company, is an excellent example of a small frame dwelling house with a hall-parlor plan, a house type that was widely utilized on the Eastern Shore throughout the 18th century and the first half of the 19th century. According to local tradition, the house was moved to this site circa 1900 from nearby Trappe, and at that time the lean-to addition and front and rear porches were added. The exterior brick stove chimneys replace larger original gable end chimneys that were demolished when the house was moved. Notable interior details include the original trim, enclosed stair and interesting framing details.

To the rear of the house is a small frame outbuilding with a hip roof and handsome Greek Revival cornice. Probably dating to the 1850s, this building was also moved to the site circa 1900. The close-stud construction of this building, normally associated with meat houses, is unusual for an outbuilding with plastered interior walls and original window openings.

# Maryland Historical Trust State Historic Sites Inventory Form

## 1. Name (indicate preferred name)

historic

and/or common Defender House

## 2. Location

street & number South Side Back Town Road  not for publicationcity, town Trappe  vicinity of congressional district first

state Maryland county Talbot

## 3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input type="checkbox"/> public	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> commercial
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input type="checkbox"/> educational
<input type="checkbox"/> site	<b>Public Acquisition</b>	<b>Accessible</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input type="checkbox"/> in process	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government
	<input type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial
	<input type="checkbox"/> not applicable	<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military
			<input type="checkbox"/> museum
			<input type="checkbox"/> park
			<input type="checkbox"/> private residence
			<input type="checkbox"/> religious
			<input type="checkbox"/> scientific
			<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
			<input type="checkbox"/> other:

## 4. Owner of Property (give names and mailing addresses of all owners)

name

street &amp; number telephone no.:

city, town state and zip code

## 5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Talbot County Courthouse liber

street &amp; number Court Square folio

city, town Easton state Maryland

## 6. Representation in Existing Historical Surveys

title

date  federal  state  county  local

pository for survey records

city, town state

# 7. Description

Survey No. T-489

<b>Condition</b>		<b>Check one</b>	<b>Check one</b>	
<input type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> unaltered	<input type="checkbox"/> original site	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> good	<input type="checkbox"/> ruins	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> altered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> moved	date of move
<input type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> unexposed			c.1900

Prepare both a summary paragraph and a general description of the resource and its various elements as it exists today.

The Defender House is located on the south side of Back Town Road just east of Maryland Route 565 and one-half mile west of U.S. Route 50 approximately one mile north of Trappe. The house takes its name from the Defender Canning Company immediately to the south and west. According to oral tradition, the house was moved to this location from Trappe circa 1900. The concrete block foundation and brick stove chimneys date to the move; the framing for the original chimneys and hearths remains in place.

The Defender House is a small frame hall parlor plan dwelling that measures 16 feet wide and 26 feet long. It is 1½ stories high, three bays long and one room deep, with exterior brick stove chimneys centered on each end of the steeply pitched gable roof. A one story frame lean-to projects from the west gable wall of the house. The lean-to is ten feet long and 16 feet deep.

The north or front facade of the house faces Back Town Road. The principal entrance is located in the center bay of this facade flanked by a single 6/6 window on each side. One pitched roof 4/4 dormer window is located in the east bay on the second floor. The windows are set in beaded frames. Early wide, random-width weatherboard siding survives on the upper portion of this facade; the lower wall is sheathed with later plain siding. The eaves are boxed in and trimmed with a small crown mold applied against a beaded fascia; the roof is covered with wood shingles. The dormer window in the east bay is trimmed with an ogee backband trim framing the opening and a complex crown mold in the pediment.

A door in the south bay is the only opening in the east gable wall. The brick stove chimney rises against the center of this gable and the upper shaft is stabilized by angle-iron braces. The early siding has been replaced with plain horizontal siding secured with wire nails; the rakeboard has been replaced with a two-by-four.

The rear facade is similar to the front facade, with a door near the center flanked by a single 6/6 window on each side. There are two pitched roof dormer windows on this facade. The east dormer is fitted with early 4/4 sash; the west dormer has later 2/2 sash. Both dormers are trimmed with the ogee backband crown molding found on the front dormer. The majority of the siding has been replaced; the cornice and roof match the front facade.

## 7.1 DESCRIPTION (cont'd)

The majority of the west gable wall is concealed by the one story frame lean-to. A pair of small 1/1 windows flank the brick stove chimney in the upper gable. The siding has been replaced; the gable eaves have been boxed in with plain trim.

The roof of the one story lean-to wing pitches down to the west. There is one 6/6 window in each of the three exterior walls. The wing rests on a concrete foundation and is covered with plain horizontal siding.

One story porches stretch across the front and rear facade. These were presumably constructed after the house was moved.

The interior consists of a hall and parlor plan with the larger hall to the west. The interior partition is of stud and plaster construction. An original winder stair rises in the north-west corner of the west room (the hall).

The interior framing of the house has been exposed by a renovation project now underway. The door and window openings on the front and rear facades and the east gable are clearly original, but the door in the west gable wall, opening into the lean-to, is cut-in. The first floor joists are dropped into sockets in the facade walls and are not pinned. Joists at either end and near the center of the building are dropped into dovetail slots, securely tying the frame together. The framing exposed in the first floor stair closet was whitewashed but never plastered. Early trim on the first floor includes beaded baseboard, beaded architrave trim with ovolo backband, and beaded window sills with a simple Federal nosing.

The second floor is also divided into two chambers by a stud and plaster partition directly above the first floor partition. The stair is enclosed with a simple railing with a square newel and square balusters. The walls and ceiling are plastered; three small beaded batten doors allow access to the knee walls. The dormer windows are cut-in rather than framed into the roof, but appear to be original. Early trim includes ovolo architrave trim on the interior door and the west gable windows, and beaded trim framing the cheekwalls of the dormer windows and the kneewall doors.

The roof is constructed of common rafters set at a 50 degree pitch and joined at the ridge with pegged mortise-and-tenon joints. They are reinforced with one collar beam let into each rafter pair and nailed with two machine nails.

Outbuilding: A small frame outbuilding is located approximately 50 yards to the south of the house. This building measures 12 feet by 13 feet and was also moved to this site, presumably from Trappe. This nearby square building with a hip roof has been altered by large openings cut in the north and south wall. Original window openings remain visible on the east and west walls. The eaves are boxed in and trimmed with a handsome complex crown mold of the

## 7.2 DESCRIPTION (cont'd)

Greek Revival period and a smaller bed mold. The interior was plastered with machine sawn lathing secured with machine made nails. The framing members are circular sawn and the studs are close-set. An enclosed stair rises against the west wall to a small loft space. The original ceiling joists have been cut out and a later, lower ceiling has been inserted.

The original function of this building is unknown. The size of the building and the close-studding are typical of meat houses in this region, but the plastered walls and original windows suggest a more formal use such as an office. The circular sawn framing timbers, machine sawn lathing and Greek Revival cornice suggest a date of circa 1850s.

# 8. Significance

Survey No. T-489

Period	Areas of Significance—Check and justify below			
<input type="checkbox"/> prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> community planning	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> religion
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-historic	<input type="checkbox"/> conservation	<input type="checkbox"/> law	<input type="checkbox"/> science
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> literature	<input type="checkbox"/> sculpture
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> social/
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> humanitarian
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)

**Specific dates**

**Builder/Architect**

check: Applicable Criteria:  A  B  C  D  
and/or

Applicable Exception:  A  B  C  D  E  F  G

Level of Significance:  national  state  local

Prepare both a summary paragraph of significance and a general statement of history and support.

According to local tradition, the Defender House was moved to its present site circa 1900 from nearby Trappe. At the time of the move, the original exterior brick chimneys were removed and replaced with brick stove chimneys, porches were added front and rear, and the lean-to addition was constructed on the west gable end. The house is an excellent example of a small story-and-a-half hall parlor dwelling and probably dates to circa 1820-40. Virtually all of the original trim survives, including beaded baseboards, ovolo architraves and an enclosed winder stair with a simple second story rail.

The renovation of the house now underway has exposed a number of interesting framing details, including clever dove-tailed joists that tie the front and rear walls together.

To the rear of the house is a small frame outbuilding with a hipped roof and handsome Greek Revival cornice. Probably dating to the 1850s, this building was also moved to the site circa 1900. The close-stud construction usually associated with meat houses is unusual for an outbuilding with plastered interior walls and original windows.

# 9. Major Bibliographical References

Survey No. T-489

# 10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of nominated property \_\_\_\_\_

Quadrangle name \_\_\_\_\_

Quadrangle scale \_\_\_\_\_

UTM References do NOT complete UTM references

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Zone      Easting      Northing

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Verbal boundary description and justification

List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries

state	code	county	code

# 11. Form Prepared By

name/title Orlando Ridout v/Historic Sites Survey Coordinator

organization Maryland Historical Trust date \_\_\_\_\_

street & number 21 State Circle telephone 269-2438

city or town Annapolis state Maryland

Field Notebook MD-4; Recorded March 9, 1982.

The Maryland Historic Sites Inventory was officially created by an Act of the Maryland Legislature to be found in the Annotated Code of Maryland, Article 41, Section 181 KA, 1974 supplement.

The survey and inventory are being prepared for information and record purposes only and do not constitute any infringement of individual property rights.

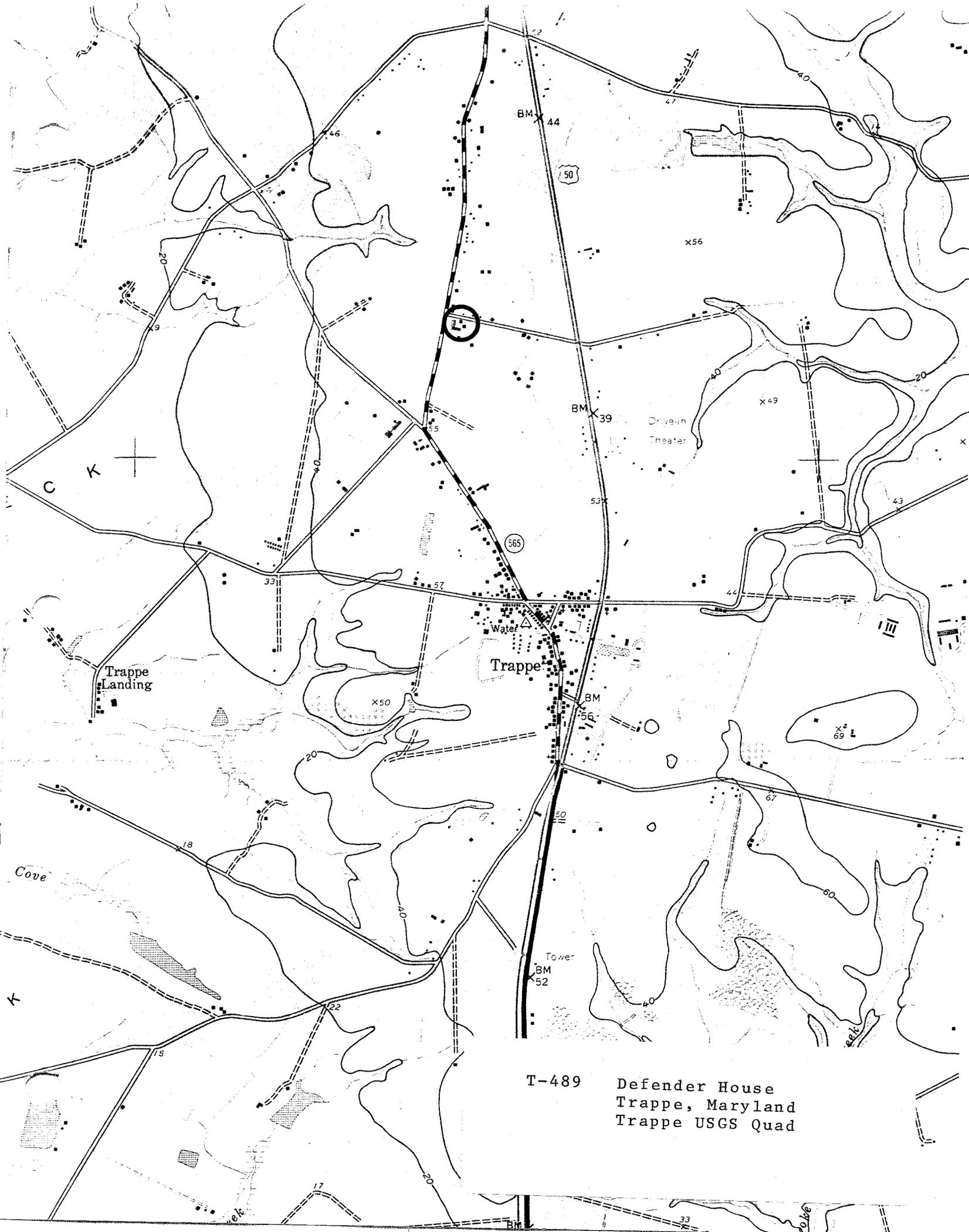
return to: Maryland Historical Trust  
Shaw House  
21 State Circle  
Annapolis, Maryland 21401  
(301) 269-2438

# TRAPPE

Dist. No 3  
TALBOT CO.



T-489 Defender House  
Trappe, Maryland  
1877 Atlas showing site was  
moved to in 1900.



T-489 Defender House  
Trappe, Maryland  
Trappe USGS Quad



T-489 Defender House  
Trappe vicinity  
Orlando Ridout V March 1982  
South Facade



T-489 Defender House  
Trappe vicinity  
Orlando Ridout V March 1982  
Outbuilding



T-489 Defender House  
Trappe vicinity  
Orlando Ridout V March 1982  
North Facade



A  
JP

T-489      Defender House  
            Trappe vicinity  
            Orlando Ridout V    March 1982  
            Dovetailed joints/sill  
            connection



10 x 160

50% 378

T-489

~~T-378~~ T-489

Defender Packing House

Trappe